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TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2015

Wednesday, February 4, 2015
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 696 – RELATING TO WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Gordon Ito, State Insurance Commissioner ("Commissioner"),
testifying on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
("Department"). The Department supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Hawaii Healthcare Workforce Advisory
Board to advise the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in fulfilling the
objectives established by section 226-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the Hawaii State
Planning Act ("Act").

The Department agrees that Hawaii should follow the recommendations made by
the Hawaii Healthcare Workforce 20/20 plan to strengthen the path into health careers,
and take additional efforts toward meeting the health-related objectives and policies
established by the Act.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.



House Committee on Health

The Hon. Della Au Belatti, Chair

The Hon. Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of House Bill 696
Relating to Workforce Development
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer
February 4, 2015, 9:00 am, Room 329

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 696, establishing the Hawaii healthcare workforce advisory board to help increase and strengthen the workforce in the state.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

House Bill 696 speaks to several of these major determinants, addressing the growing shortage of care providers in the state as well seeking to provide education, training, and employment to potential health professionals.

For these reasons, we support this measure and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

creagan3 - Karina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 3:54 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: rontthi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB696 on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM

HB696

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

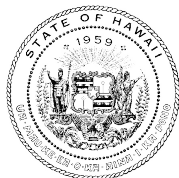
Testimony for HLT on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The redundancy in Section 2, #3 and #4, should be amended by replacing #3 with the Dean of the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 4, 2015

To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair,
The Honorable Richard Creagan, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Health

Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2015
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Elaine N. Young, Acting Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. No. 696 Relating to Workforce Development

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

HB696 proposes to add a new section to chapter 371, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to establish a Hawaii healthcare workforce advisory board within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. If enacted, the board shall advise the department on strategies for developing the healthcare workforce; develop a mission, objectives, and goals; and advise the department in developing partnerships with healthcare providers, organizations, and stakeholders to further Board goals.

The DLIR supports the measure as long as its passage does not replace or adversely affect priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

II. CURRENT LAW

Chapter 371 pertains to the department and does not include a healthcare workforce board.

III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL

This bill was developed based on efforts that began in 2010 when over 150 stakeholders, including Hawaii Pacific Health and other healthcare providers, with the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, convened as a Healthcare Skill Panel to identify critical workforce issues and

develop recommendations to address those issues. Their recommendations were published in Hawaii's Healthcare Workforce 20/20 Plan and Report, which included a need for an early warning system to quickly identify looming shortages and skill needs so that corrective action could be taken on a more timely basis.

The recommendations were updated in 2014 through a survey conducted by Kapiolani Community College, in collaboration with Hawaii Pacific Health, Queen's Hospital, and other healthcare providers, with support from the department. The survey of former Healthcare Skill Panel members and other healthcare providers supported the formation of a statewide healthcare workforce advisory board to provide an early warning system of impending shortages and skill needs to address healthcare workforce issues and serve the community more effectively.

The need to have healthcare professionals validate and clarify or modify labor market data has been demonstrated well by the results of the healthcare skill panel. For example, instead of shortages among RNs as projected in labor market data, the panel identified a glut of RNs except those in specialty occupations. Learning these results made planning more accurate for development of employment and training programs.

For these reasons, the department supports the establishment of a statewide healthcare workforce advisory board in the department, provided sufficient funds are appropriated to support board activities and if its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget.